

From Dispatch No. RTAA- 878 23 Oct 1950

To Chief FDR

III. According to information obtained from the refugees, the British Intelligence Pool is distributed in several small towns of the British zone. Among the known places, two villas are located in a town called Brakwede and two villas in Seise I near Munster, Westphalia.

Prospects for this Pool are recruited from Russian minorities of people residing in the occupied zones of Germany. The main sources of supply of prospects come from the AbN's various member committees which maintain up-to-date lists of individuals belonging to the nationalities of the respective committees. Another source of potential prospects are the IRO camps. In the British Zone, key officials are sometimes also British Intelligence officers.

Individuals who are recruited for this Pool ~~are mainly from the British~~ come from the above-average intelligence brackets, and there is a good percentage of former intelligence officers, writers and others.

Jefferson
YK
The head organizer of the Pool and chief contact man between the British and the various recruiters in the field is a professor of Oriental Sciences named Von Mende. During World War II, von Mende was connected with a General Lesterling who was then charged with the formation of all foreign legions brought on the side of the Germans. Up to 1949, von Mende was in direct contact with a British Intelligence officer by the name of Brown. The latter is reported to have been killed sometime thereafter in an automobile accident. Von Mende is said to be living in the suburbs of Dortmund where he occupies the house which belonged in 1947 to the Netherlands consulate. He is said to make frequent trips throughout the British zone, Munich and Bonn.

Recruits who are accepted by the Pool are paid between 20 and 200 DM per month, depending on the calibre of the individual. All funds for maintaining the pool and money paid to individuals attending the Pool were supplied by the British. It is said, however, that as of 1949 these expenditures have been taken over or handled by the Bonn government.

Recruits are sometimes chosen to attend various German and English universities where they take such courses as Oriental Sciences, history geography, economics and political science. Individuals spend eight months at the Pool before they are given assignments. Approximately 150 to 200 individuals are "graduated" from the Pool each year

*Also reported : Lives at Brakwede bei Bielefeld.

From MGM-A-1006 4 March 1949--

Von Mende was reengaged by the British at the end of the war as advisor and head agent, entrusted with the screening and selection of Turkestanis, Tartars, Caucasians, Georgians and Ukrainians suitable for operational and propaganda use under present and, eventually, war-time conditions. Individuals of promise have been granted scholarships in German universities or at London, or taken immediately for special training by the BBC. His complaints against the British:

1. Kept sharply aware inferior role as German vis-avis the British, and no possibility employment at top level of performance.
2. British borrowed ~~the~~ professional library on Russia, shipped it to England, and wont return it or compensate for it.
3. His former case officer, Mr Brown, injured in accident and replaced by an officer with no preparation or understanding in von Mende's field of endeavor.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006